options of projecting India's economic, social and cultural development to the rest of the world, including the feasibility of an International Television Channel. Since the deliberations are in a nascent stage, no action plan or time frame can be indicated.

Installation of high power transmitter at Chirgaon

1701. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 2772 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11th May, 2006 and state:

(a) whether Government would consider installing a high power transmitter at a suitable height to cover people in Ransar valley;

(b) whether the present VLPT installed at Chirgaon is not an Government land and a heavy rent is being paid for it; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being contemplated to replace this VLPT with a HPT at a higher altitude to remove the grievances of the people of Ransar valley and also to bare the expenditure being incurred as rent?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no scheme to upgrade the existing very low power TV transmitter at Chirgaon to an HPT. Doordarshan have provided multi-channel TV coverage through its free-to-air DTH service 'DD Direct Plus' in the entire country (except A&N Islands). DTH signals can be received anywhere in the country (including Shimla district) with the help of a small sized dish receive unit.

VLPT at Chirgaon has been set up on a private land and an amount of Rs. 1,000/-p.m. is being paid towards rent of this land.

Impact of DD-Indian Channel in the Middle East

1702. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted in the Middle East by Doordarshan to study the impact of DD-India channel there;

(b) if so, the result of the study; and

(c) the step taken to telecast audience based quality programmes for foreign viewers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that a study on the reach and impact of DD-India Channel in Middle-East countries is on the anvil.

(c) Prasar Bharati have informed that DD-India carries news bulletins, features on topical events, entertainment programmes, features films, music and dance including children programmes in some regional languages. The contents medley of DD-India Channel is expected to serve the interests and needs of the Indian diaspors.

Channel on Science and Technology/Environment and Forests

1703. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up a 24-hour channel on Science and Technology/Environment and Forests on the lines of National Geographic and Discovery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the new channel would be set up; and

(d) the details of the programme that it would telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Prasar Bharati have informed that they have to such plan to set up a 24-hour channel on Science and Technology/Environment and Forests, Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Environment and Forests also have not proposal at present to set up such a channel.

Opinion and perspective of children

1704. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that television media ignores the opinions and perspectives of children and children's programming is never a priority for the TV media;

(b) whether there is also a complaint and information relevant to children is not presented in ways that they can understand;